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LB 1228, 1336

some discussions, if you will remember, on the mentoring section of the bill as to what would happen after...if it went...if costs were more than 10 percent, and I think most of us understood, at least I did, that then I would imagine the money would come out of General Funds to fund this program over in the Department of Education. My concern is that we will be spending more general dollars bringing this bill to fruition than we are spending now. If you look at the amend...at the fiscal note on 1228, this is going to be a lot of money, millions of dollars a year to implement this bill, and I know, Senator Cudaback, you don't want to talk money, money. But this is a lot of taxpayer dollars on this bill, and millions of dollars a year on the testing or the reporting requirements of the bill. And if this is really a program to disburse lottery funds, at least this section on the mentoring program to disburse lottery funds, or we are going to use this as that portion of the bill, then I would be much more comfortable if we would keep the cost of this program within just the lottery money, just as it is now. We don't add on General Funds to any of these grant areas out of our General Funds now into the disbursement of the lottery funds, so I am not sure why we needed to change this. This is, I hope, drafted to be able to do this, and taking this out of the bill, that's what this amendment does, would just say whatever the costs are for the mentoring program will be paid for out of the lottery funds, and then whatever is left will be given to the grant money for the different tier structure for the schools, and then the rest of this section of this amendment said if anything is left over, then it will go into grants that the Governor would give out. I don't suspect, if a lot of schools qualify for the mentoring program that there will be much money, if any, left over, and none of us have any idea what the cost will be for the training of the mentor program. If you look at the fiscal note on LB 1336, it's also in the millions of dollars. So I'm not sure we've allocated enough in this first 10 percent portion of the lottery money to cover that program. So I think it would be better to just kind of take this language out of here, allow lottery money to be used for the mentoring training program and the grants, and let that go ahead. And whatever those costs are, keep it within the context and within the framework of the lottery money. If they have less money after they pay for the training, then the grant disbursement will be less. If they have more money, then you can go ahead